

FEBRUARY 2, 1837.

Read twice, and committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. McKEON, from the Committee on Commerce, reported the following bill:

A BILL

To abolish protections to American seamen, and to provide passports.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*
3 the fourth and seventh sections of an act entitled "An act for
4 the relief and protection of American seamen," be, and the
5 same are hereby, repealed.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That the Secretary of*
2 State shall transmit, from time to time, a sufficient number of
3 passports, as are usually granted to citizens of the United States,
4 attested under the seal of the Department and hand of the Se-
5 cretary, with proper blanks to be filled by said collectors, re-
6 spectively, and by whom the said passports shall also be signed
7 before they are issued.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted, That the collector of*
2 every district shall deliver a passport to every seaman, being a
3 citizen of the United States, requesting the same; the said col-
4 lector shall keep a register of the names of those seamen to whom
5 passports may be delivered, and transmit to the State Depart-

6 ment, every three months, a list of the seamen receiving pass-
7 ports.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That no fees shall be re-
2 ceived or charged for any services under this act, or for any
3 passports granted to mariners.